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**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS
IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE**
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ON CARICC MEMBER STATES

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



PUTIN SUGGESTS TO STRENGTHEN DRUG CONTROL ON CASPIAN SEA

The countries of the "Caspian Five" - Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran should unite their efforts in the fight against drug trafficking in the region, Russian President Vladimir Putin believes. He expressed this opinion on Sunday at the meeting of the 5th Caspian Summit in Aktau, Kazakhstan.

During the meeting, the parties signed the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea.

"The Convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, prepared in the course of more than 20 years of negotiations, fixes the exclusive right and responsibility of our states for the fate of the Caspian Sea, establishes clear rules for its collective use," the Russian President said.

One of the areas of cooperation, in his opinion, should be the joint fight against drug trafficking. "One should think about the development of a separate document on cooperation in the suppression of drug trafficking in the Caspian Sea," suggested Vladimir Putin. <https://rg.ru/2018/08/12/putin-predlozhit-usilit-borbu-s-narkotrafikom-na-kaspii.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DOES NOT SUPPORT "DRUGS HARM REDUCTION" PROGRAMS

On August 6, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov commented on Western "drugs harm reduction" programs, describing them as an indirect version of the legalization of narcotic substances through medical structures.

Syromolotov explained the country's position on the "expert recommendations" following the results of the international AIDS and HIV conference "AIDS 2018" held in Amsterdam on July 23-27. In particular, Russia appealed for calls to so-called "harm reduction" programs, including syringe distribution, needle exchange and methadone distribution to people who inject drugs.

The Deputy Minister drew attention to the strategy of the State Anti-Drug Policy of the country until 2020, which stipulates the inadmissibility of the use in Russia of substitution treatment methods for drug addicts using narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and legalization of drug use for non-medical purposes.

"Harm reduction programs, including syringe exchange programs, from which, as a rule, the introduction of "opioid therapy" (hereinafter referred to as "OT") starts is an indirect option of the legalization of narcotic substances through official medical structures," the diplomat explained, stating the risks of the introduction of OT programs. This is the maintenance and increase in the scale of drug abuse of the population, the destabilization of the drug situation in the Russian Federation, and, in addition, the

increase in death rates associated with drug use. According to him, it is also about expanding the legal turnover of drugs, and as a result, the predictable involvement of methadone and buprenorphine and medical personnel in illicit trafficking of these drugs. Plus, corruption risks in the health care system and law enforcement agencies; the development in the community of tolerance for drug use; destruction of the demographic, intellectual, creative potential of the country.

"According to expert studies, methadone therapy does not help curing drug dependence, and methadone and buprenorphine themselves cause or enhance it," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. - On the severity of the narcotic effect, these synthetic drugs surpass morphine and heroin, and exceed the duration of the effect by 3 times. The use of the "narcotic ration" method actually stops the search for effective methods of drug treatment, since it is much easier to distribute narcotics to drug users than to socialize them in a life without drugs".

He also touched upon the financial interests of the producers of "this very expensive drug", who seek to prevent the termination of the program and, of course, the production of methadone. "At the same time, the lives of sick people is at stake," said Syromolotov, stating that Russia has formed an effective multi-level therapeutic and rehabilitation complex for cure of drug users from dependence with complete refusal to use drugs, including treatment, medical and social rehabilitation and resocialization.

"These developments and methods have been repeatedly demonstrated by Russian specialists at international events, including the annual sessions of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. We hope that this information will help international experts not issue prescriptions of questionable quality from time to time, and together with their Russian colleagues take care to find effective and efficient ways of overcoming drug addiction and related ailments," the diplomat noted. <https://eadaily.com/ru/news/2018/08/06/mid-rossii-ne-podderzhivaet-programmy-snizheniya-vreda-ot-narkotikov>



PSKOV STUDENTS WERE REMINDED OF THE INADMISSIBILITY OF CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS, SMOKING BLENDS AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

In the suburban training center of the Pskov branch of the Academy of the Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN) of Russia a meeting of freshmen with the head of the division of the Drugs Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Pskov region Olga Mirvalieva was held.

The officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Pskov region, citing statistical data on the drug situation in the region, reminded the cadets of the inadmissibility of the use of narcotic drugs, smoking mixtures and psychoactive substances, their harmful effects on the human body, as well as administrative and criminal liability for consumption, storage and marketing of prohibited substances.

First-year students watched a documentary about the harmful effects of drugs on the human body and were given anti-drug brochures with telephone hotlines of the Department. <http://pln-pskov.ru/society/320145.html>

ON OTHER COUNTRIES

NORWAY

DRUG ADDICTS IN NORWAY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FREE HEROIN

An unconventional approach to solving the problem of drug dependence was demonstrated in Norway. There the government will provide free heroin as part of a pilot program to improve the quality of life for 400 drug addicts starting 2020.

As early as 2017, the country held a referendum on the decriminalization of the use and storage of drugs, for which the majority voted, but no one is going to legalize the free circulation of narcotic substances. For the use and possession of drugs one will no longer be imprisoned, but be prescribed addiction treatment. The provision of free heroin will enable addicted people not to engage in prostitution, not to go to robbery and other crimes, in order to get money for drugs. In addition, drug addicts will stop sponsoring drug dealers, enriching them with their own and other people's money, and, consequently, the entire criminal drug business will suffer, which the authorities of Norway seek. <https://www.vladtime.ru/allworld/685839>

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